

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions/listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for use during ultrasonic treatment of a cancer in subject tissue, comprising:
supporting a plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes with a jig assembly that comprises
a central shaft,
a plurality of collars each mounted on and independently rotatable about said central shaft, and
a plurality of adjustable supports each attached to one of said collars,
wherein each one of said plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes is mounted on one of said supports, and said collars and supports are adjusted to focus said plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes onto a con-focal region; and
robotically manipulating an array of two or more said plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes, that are mechanically focused onto a con-focal region by moving said central shaft, to sight said con-focal region on at least a portion of a target tumour whose site is determined by ultrasound.

2. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising manipulating said ~~[[array]]~~ plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes to sight on one or more other focal regions of ~~[[said]]~~ the target tumour.
3. (previously presented) A method claimed in claim 2, wherein said manipulations are performed as a series of step-wise motions in one plane.
4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising determining the site of ~~[[said]]~~ the target tumour by ultrasound, prior to said robotically manipulating said ~~[[array]]~~ plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes.
5. (currently amended) A method in claim 4, wherein said determining ~~[[said]]~~ the site of ~~[[said]]~~ the target tumour includes:
ultrasonically scanning at least a portion of subject tissue in a series of step-wise slices to derive a pseudo three-dimensional representation thereof.
6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising preceding said robotically manipulating said plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes ~~[[array,]]~~ by mechanically configuring said ~~array-of~~ plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes to give a desired convergent con-focal region.
7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising, following said robotically manipulating said ~~[[array]]~~ plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes, activating said plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes to ablate said portion of ~~[[said]]~~ the target tumour.
8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least one of frequency, power and on-time of said plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes is [[are]] adjusted.
10. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising, defining a safe working envelope for said robotic manipulation.
11. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said robotic manipulation is interlocked with said activation such that said robotic manipulation and said activation cannot occur simultaneously.
12. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising locating and orientating said plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes [[array]] and a patient relative to each other, such that [[said]] the target tumour site is within the range of motion of said [[array]] plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes.
13. (canceled)
14. (currently amended) Apparatus for the ultrasonic treatment of cancer in subject tissue, comprising:
an array of (i) two or more ultrasonic treatment probes, that are mechanically configurable to be focused onto a desired con-focal region, and (ii) an ultrasonic identification probe;
a robotic manipulator, carrying said array, and operable to move said array and thus sight said con-focal region, wherein said ultrasonic treatment probes are supported by a jig assembly that comprises a central shaft,

a plurality of collars each mounted on and independently rotatable about said central shaft, and
a plurality of adjustable supports each attached to one of said collars, wherein each one of said ultrasonic treatment probes is mounted on one of said supports, and said collars and supports are adjustable to focus said ultrasonic treatment probes onto said con-focal region; and a programmed controller which operates to activate said probes and cause motion of said robotic manipulator in a manner such that said ultrasonic identification probe is scanned over at least a portion of [[said]] the tissue to determine a site of a target tumour, and said treatment probes are sighted such that said con-focal region coincides with at least a portion of [[said]] the target tumour and are activated to ablate [[said]] the portion of [[said]] the target tumour.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said controller activates said robotic manipulator to sight and operate said treatment probes at other focal regions coinciding with [[said]] the target tumour.

16. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said controller activates said robotic manipulator as a series of step-wise motions in one plane to sight and operate said treatment probes in aggregation to coincide with [[said]] the target tumour in that plane.

17. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 14, wherein said robotic manipulator operates to cause said identification probe to scan at least a portion of the subject tissue as a series of step-wise slices to derive a pseudo three-dimensional representation thereof.

18. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said array of probes is mechanically configured to give a desired focal region matching to said site of [[said]] the target tumour.

19. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said ultrasonic treatment probes have predetermined parameters to be applied to [[said]] the target tumour.

20. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a procedure table upon which a subject can lie, having an acoustic window therein at which [[said]] the subject tissue is sited.

21. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said acoustic window is arranged to be aligned with the breast of [[said]] the subject.

22. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said controller is programmed to define a safe working envelope for manipulation.

23. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said controller further interlocks said treatment probes and said robotic manipulator so that both cannot be operated simultaneously.

24 - 26. (canceled)

27. (new) A method for use during ultrasonic treatment of a cancer in subject tissue, comprising:

supporting a plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes with a jig assembly that comprises

a support member defining an axis,

at least one collar mounted on said support member and rotatable about said axis, and

at least one arced arm attached to said at least one collar, each said at least one arced arm supporting at least one of said plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes,

wherein said plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes are mounted on said at least one arced arm to be focused onto a con-focal region, said con-focal region remaining intersected by said axis when said at least one collar is rotated about said axis; and

robotically manipulating said plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes, to sight said con-focal region on at least a portion of a target tumour whose site is determined by ultrasound.

28. (new) An apparatus for treating cancer in a subject tissue, comprising:

an ultrasonic identification probe and a plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes;

a robotic manipulator, carrying said identification and treatment probes, and operable to move said identification and treatment probes to sight a con-focal region, wherein said identification and treatment probes are supported by a jig assembly that comprises

a support member for supporting said identification probe and defining
an axis,

at least one collar mounted on said support member and rotatable
about said axis, and

at least one arced arm attached to said at least one collar, each said
at least one arced arm supporting at least one of said plurality of
ultrasonic treatment probes,

wherein said plurality of ultrasonic treatment probes are mounted on
said at least one arced arm to be focused onto said con-focal region,
said con-focal region remaining intersected by said axis when said at
least one collar is rotated about said axis; and

a programmed controller for activating said identification and treatment
probes and causing motion of said robotic manipulator in a manner such
that said ultrasonic identification probe is scanned over at least a portion
of the subject tissue to determine a site of a target tumour, and said
treatment probes are sighted such that said con-focal region coincides
with at least a portion of the target tumour and are activated to ablate the
portion of the target tumour.